Senate Research Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, November 25, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. in room S-205

Present: C. Bédard, J. Beaudoin , E. Besso, R. Bhat, F. Haghighat, R. Hale, N. Howe, R. Lachapelle, T. Mak, D. Pushkar, R. Roy.

Regrets: B. Layne, J. McGuire, N. Sajnani

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved, with the addition under item 8 of *University Committee on Research Centres.*

2. Approval of the Minutes

The approval of the minutes of the meeting of Thursday, September 23, 1999, was deferred.

3. Chair's Report

CFI: the Chair reported that a New Opportunity submission had been sent to CFI on behalf of Andrew Chapman, Department of Psychology. There is another application expected from Biology shortly, and two coming from the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science early in the year 2000. The deadline for the Letter of Intent for Phase 2 is December 10, 1999, and Concordia is expecting to submit one large request from Commerce and Administration, one from Arts and Science, and one from Engineering and Computer Science. There is also a very large national proposal going forward dealing with Statistics Canada, and Bill Reimer from our Department of Sociology and Anthropology is a co-investigator.

ADARUQ: at the annual meeting of the Association des Administrateurs de Recherche au Quebec (ADARUQ), the plans to convert the Medical Research Council (MRC) into cross-sectoral Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) were elaborated. It is expected that the new agency will be approved and launched for April 1, 2000, and the Canadian government will be investing up to $800m on health-related research. It is expected that there will be between 10-15 institutes established across Canada, and Concordia must position itself to be included in those proposals related to our areas of expertise. Dean Bédard will call a meeting of researchers involved in health research at Concordia, to which March Renaud, President of SSHRC and member of the CIHR interim governing council, will be invited. The Deans have authorized the hiring of a consultant to help Concordia get into the most suitable institutes. Dr. Besso added that Valorisation Recherche Quebec will announce on December 8 how it plans to support Quebec's efforts in securing its share of the Institutes.

Special Research Chairs: there will be another injection of funds into research across Canada, in the form of support of Research Chairs. It is expected that there will be at least 1,200 new chairs established, and possibly up to 2,000. The social Sciences are currently vying with the Natural Sciences, Engineering and Medical Councils to ensure that they are adequately represented in the awarding of the new chairs.

Concordia 1999 University Research Fellow: Dr. J. Helland returned to Concordia for her URF lecture on November 8, 1999. The lecture was well attended, and followed by a lively question and answer period. Dr.Lachapelle especially thanked the coordinator of the evening (Lidia Santos).

4. Report from the Director, Office of Research Services

- Dr. B. Reimer from the Department of Sociology will be receiving a major inter-institutional grant from SSHRC.
- A new contract was signed on behalf of Dr. Khendek with France Telecom.
- The BLEU (Bureau de liaison-entreprise universitaire) is in favor of implementing a uniform overhead rate. The Rectors have not agreed to this since there are currently differences in the amounts charged.
- The Provost has circulated a draft policy on Intellectual Property, and is waiting for feedback from the community.
- There were 6 new disclosures for 1999, with four new patent protections being taken out on them.
- There is a Human Resources task force at work on drafting a policy on research employees. Dr. Besso is a member.
- The 1998-99 research funding schedule will be out in the next two weeks.
- There are some problems with the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science in finalising the proposal for Valorisation Innovation Plus (VIP), the consortium between UQAM, Concordia, INRS, Télé UQ, UQAR, and UQTR. The plan is a part of the new funding available from Quebec for tech transfer, and universities are expected to join together and establish business plans. Concordia University is represented by Dr. Besso, who is charged with establishing the proper links among the universities.

5. Question period

Dr. Bhat asked what was the nature of the committee on research employees. Dr. Bédard replied that there was an Executive Board of Human Resources (HR), comprised of the Deans, Registrar, CUPFA and CUFA representation, and IITS. V. Gagnon reports on the progress of the different HR committees to the Board. The sub-committee dealing with research personnel has been working with J. Gagné in Research and Special Funds. Dr. Bédard is particularly interested in issues associated to PDF's, visiting researchers and visiting students. He hopes that there will be a university policy on the status of PDF's within the next few months.

6. New Business

Nomination of the Year 2000 Concordia University Research Fellows (SRC-25-11-**D1**): This year, two previous URF's were both members of the committee, a practice the Chair expects will continue in future competitions. The URF Committee nominated Dr. Michel Laroche, Department of Marketing, and Dr. Jane Stewart, Department of Psychology, both Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada. It was remarked that the two nominees embody excellence in research at Concordia, and the Chair asked for their nominations to be approved by SRC.

Motion: the Dr. M.Laroche and Dr. J. Stewart be nominated to Senate as the Year 2000 Concordia University Research Fellows. (D.Gold, F. Haghighat)

Vote: carried (unanimous)

The Chair reminded SRC members that until the nominees were approved at Senate, their names were to be kept confidential.

Dr.Bhat raised a question for future consideration, that being whether research professors were eligible for nomination.

Discussion of Dr. B. Byer's request from Senate Steering (SRC-25-11-**D2**): J. Beaudoin presented the committee with a verbal summary of SRC's activities over the past two years. It was agreed that the summary would be forwarded to Dr. Byers for presentation to the Steering Committee of Senate.

Addendum: the summary was drafted and forwarded to Dr. Byers for his consideration. A copy of the e-mail text is attached to these minutes.

7. Distribution

The Chair's letter to Mme S.Dillard, President of FCAR, AUCC's Brief, dated September 17, 1999 and entitled *Research and Education: the Underpinings of Innovation*, and the October 1999 edition of *Partners in Research* were distributed.

8. **Other business**

University Committee on Research Centres (UCRC): there are currently 9 officially recognized research centres at Concordia. The Committee was established to draft policies and procedures for the creation of new centres, as well as to monitor the status of existing ones. There is a meeting of the UCRC scheduled on January 11, to review a request from the Department of Education to establish a university supported research centre. Dr.Bédard explained that it is important to show internal support for research centres prior to the centres attempting to secure external funds. Two seats on the UCRC are nominated by the SRC, and the Chair asked if SRC was prepared to re-nominate the two members-at-large who sat on the 98-99 UCRC. There was no opposition to the Chair's suggestion. Dr.Peter Rist and Dr.Ann English will be asked to serve on the UCRC once again as representatives from the Faculty-at-large.

9. The next meeting will be Thursday, *January 27, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. (* since the last meeting, the date has been re-scheduled to Thursday, February, 3, 2000)

10. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.